GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6303
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2000
SMUGGLING OF GOLD
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smuggling of gold is in full swing these days and some of the employees of Foreign Post Office of South Mumbaiare involved therein;

(b) if so, the quantity of gold smuggled into the country during each of the last three years, so far, and the modus operandi adopted therein, case-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the employees of the Foreign Post Office of South Mumbai which were involved in gold smuggling?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (REVENUE) IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR)

(a): Though smuggling is a clandestine activity, the intelligence/reports available, as supported by seizures effected by various field formations/DRI units, do indicate that attempts to smuggle gold have continued in recent past.

Six employees of the Foreign Post Office, South Mumbai, havebeen found involved in attempted smuggling, through post parcels, of 285 foreign marked gold biscuits (collectively weighing 33.242 kgs.), in two separate cases, detected by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, in March, 2000.

(b): The details of seizures of gold effected by the field formations and intelligence agencies of Customs Department including DRI, during the last 3 years are as follows:

Year	Quantity (in kgs.)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1997	1204.474	5730.01
1998	503.592	2123.76
1999	788.231	3407.26
2000 (upto 15.4.2000)	272.504	1220.94

Different modus operandi for smuggling have been detected in the above cases. The major modus operandi detected were :

(i) concealment inside body or on person (in personal wears including footwear etc. worn by person) - of international air/sea passengers/crew;
(ii) concealment in baggage/household appliances and other articles imported by passengers;
(iii) concealment in vehicles;
(iv) concealment in air crafts & vessels including crew cabins;
(v) concealment in imported electronic appliances and other aircargo items;
(vi) concealment in post parcels;
(vii) misuse of diplomatic privileges;
(viii) attempted smuggling by air passengers without declaration of gold carried on person or in baggage;

(c): Out of the six employees of the Foreign Post Office, South Mumbai who were found involved in the cases of gold smuggling, as referred to in (a) above, four employees were arrested. Remaining two employees are reported to be absconding.